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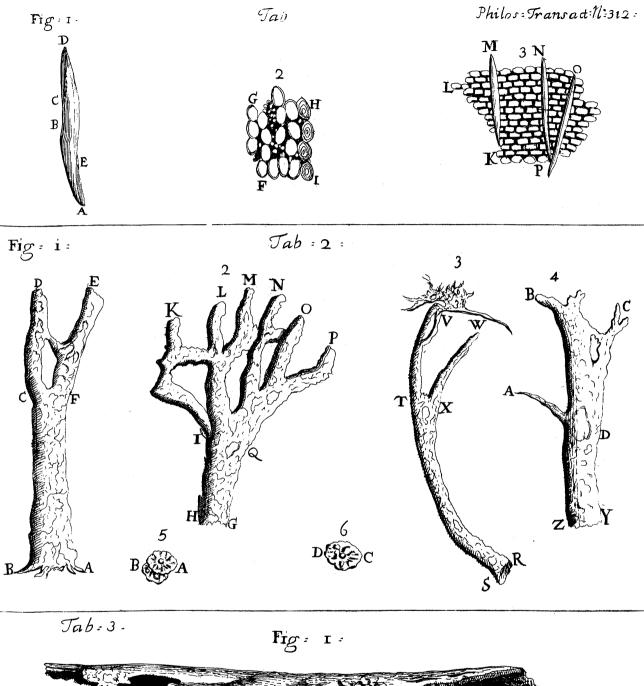
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II. A Letter to the Royal Society, from Mr. Anthony Van Leeuwenkoek, F. R. S. Concerning the Whiteness on the Tongue in Fevers, &c.

Delft, Octob. 18. 1707.

There been long of Opinion, that our Tongue is of such a Form, that when it is found and of good Condition, it does not only communicate to the Body whatever is agreeable to it felf, but also admits one part of the Matter that lies upon it, into the Manifold Vessels of which it is composed; insomuch that by the Veins it's communicated to the Harry and server for Newschmant to

nicated to the Heart, and serves for Nourishment to the Body, and strengthening of a well Constituted Tongue.

It so happened, that in the beginning of last September I was seized by a violent Fever, which however lasted but three days with me; upon the Fourth day I viewed my Tongue with a Magnifying Looking-Glass, and observed, that it was all over covered with Whiteness, only about a Fingers Breadth of the Tip was of its Natural Colour; this Whiteness is judged by most People to proceed out of the Stomach or Bowels, by the Swelling of the Guts, or else from a sharp Humour out of the Head.

Perceiving my Tongue thus all over White, I scraped off a little with a Penknise, and placed it before a Microscope, and presently judged, that those that call this White Matter in our Language Bestagentheist, and so publish it in their Books, are much mistaken, for that which truly bears that Name must be something from without, and not any Matter protruded from the Body.

Now that this abovemention'd White Matter has no Analogy or Agreement with that which is coagulated upon the Tongue from without, but that it is certainly protruded out of the Tongue, appear'd to me very plainly. when I view'd it with my Microscope, for I could then observe, that it was not only closely united to the Tongue, but that it was also forced out of it, just as Plants proceed from the Earth; yea, that it extended it felf into Boughs and Branches.

Now for the better understanding of the said protruded Matter from the Tongue, I plac'd some of it before a Microscope, and caused it to be painted, after having separated the Parts from one another, which I often

found clung together.

Tab. 2. Fig. 1. A B C D E F represents one of the said small Parts which I had scraped from my Tongue; A B shews where it was fastned to my Tongue, and CF shews how the Body of it divided it self into two Branches, described by C D and F E.

I have observed several times in the aforesaid Trunk or Body of that Particle a long Fibre or Streak running perpendicularly thro' the middle of it, which I imagined to be a fort of a Vein or Vessel from which the whole Body or Branches received their Nourishment; but as soon as that White Matter becomes dry, one fees no more of those Fibres in it.

Fig. 2. GHIKLMNOPQ represents a second Particle, which I had taken from my Tongue, of which GHIQ is the Stalk or Root, and KLMNOP the fix several Branches, all which were at GH united to, or

rather riveted in the Tongue.

Fig. 2. R S T V W X was a third Particle protruded out of my Tongue, and at T X you see the place where it divided it self into two Branches, which Branches are divided by T V and X W; and the Painter having obferved at V some further sproutings out, he has described

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them according as they appeared to him, but I my felf have observed such out Sproutings as look'd like Flowers; and whereas my Fever had left me about a day or two before I scraped off that White Matter from my Tongue, I imagined that the extream parts of the afore-said Matter were almost worn or rubbed off when I made that Observation.

Fig. 4. Y Z A B C D was a fourth Particle of the protruded Matter from my Tongue, of which the greatest part of the Branches were, in a manner, worn or bro-

ken off, as you may see by A B C.

There was so much to be observed in all these Particles which I had scraped from my Tongue, that it was impossible for any Painter to describe them; they seem'd outwardly to be Convex, and withal as transparent as Chrystal; that is to say, at the very time I took them from my Tongue and view'd them with a Microscope; but when they were dry they did not appear so neat, which was occasion'd by the Slimy or Glutinous Matter which we have always in our Mouths, and which makes these Particles cleave together.

That I might free them from the aforesaid Glutinous Matter or Spittle, I put them into a little Rain Water, and stir'd it gently about, to the end that the said Matter might be diluted and united to the Water; this being done I took some of those Particles, which by their weight had subsided to the bottom, and placed them before a

Microscope.

I observed also with Wonder, how very strongly they were fastned to my Tongue when I scraped them from it, and that tho' I had let them lie eight days in Water, they were as strong as when they were first taken off.

Now how can we conceive the Common Opinion of some Doctors and Chymists, who maintain, that this Whiteness upon the Tongue is occasioned by the ascend-

ing Vapours and Fumes from the Stomach; whereas, as I imagine, that part of the Stomach which receives the Victuals is always thut, except when it discharges it self of Wind, which comes out by the Throat; and how can the Fumes come out of the Head and descend upon the Tongue, as they also maintain, just as if our Heads were of the shape and make of the Helm or Head of a Still.

Might we not better resolve it thus; That our Tongues are so constituted, as to receive a few of those Juices into the Orifices of its Vessels, and that this causes the Sensation which we call Taste, and that these Juices are carried or press'd by the little Coats or Tunica's of the small Veins that are in the Tongue, and so continued by the great Vein to the Heart; but when we're indisposed with a Fever, the Whiteness which at that time appears upon the Tongue is occasion'd by the Blood being so thick, that it can't be carry'd (as it ought to be) thro' the small Vessels, and by the Expulsion or driving back of that Moisture in the Blood, which we call Serum.

Now the Tongue being thus cover'd with that White Matter that is protruded out of its Veffels, is uncapable of admitting any of its Juices into it, and this is the reason that at such times we have little or no Taste.

Moreover there lay about that Matter which has been described by Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, a vast Number of little Scales, with which our Mouth is all cover'd over within; and the Painter having observed two such Scales that lay partly upon one another, he drew them, as you may see in Fig. 5, between A and B, and below them there lay another single Scale, which is described by Fig. 6. CD.

Now fince we observe so many of these little Scales to fall off of their own accord-from the Mouth, may we not well conclude, that in a strong Fever, such Scales receive Nourishment.

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We also observed, that a great many of these Scales had a round Bubble in the middle of them, and that there was seldom in one Scale two Bubbles, as in Fig. 5. in that Scale which is represented by B; I thought with my self, whether this might not be the place from whence the Scales received their Nourishment.

Fig. 6. Does likewise represent a Scale between C and D with a round Bubble in it. You may remember I told you above, that I could observe none of this White Matter upon the Tip of my Tongue; the Cause of which, perhaps was the great heat of the Liquor I then made use of; for as soon as I found my self in a Fever, I ordered some Cossee to be made for me, and drank four Dishes of it as fast as I could one after the other, insomuch that my Lips were very sore with the heat of it the day after; the drinking of this Cossee gave me great ease, and the next Morning I drank some Bohea Tea, as fast as ever I could, in order to put my self into a Sweat, but in vain; now 'tis possible that the heat of the Cossee and the Tea had dissolved, or loosened the White Stuff upon the Tip of my Tongue, which is to be enquired into.

I have said before, that upon the fourth day of my Fever I first viewed my Tongue and the White Matter I scraped from it, which was the same Day my Fever lest me; and I imagine that about that time a great deal of the White Matter, that had been about my Tongue, was fallen off, and that had I viewed the same the second Day of my Fever, I should have seen that Matter and the Branches of it much more plainly.

In the Month of October, it was reported in my House, that there was a young Man so grievously troubled with the Ibrush, that they were afraid it would have killed him, for he could scarcely draw his Breath; having inform'd my self who was his Doctor, I sent to him and desired him to let me have a little of that Stuff which was taken from the Tongue of the Patient, which aecordingly

cordingly was brought to me two Days after one another.

This Matter, which lay upon a Paper, stuck so fast together, that it was very difficult to separate it, and the most part of it appeared as clear as any Water to our naked Eye; having view'd it thro' a Microscope, I saw that the clear sticking Moisture was encompass'd with an exceeding great number of very small Globules, which appeared to me to be much smaller than those that make our Blood Red; and when this White Matter was thorough dry, it appeared to be of a Green Colour, much like that Matter which we discharge by the Mouth when we catch cold, and which is commonly called Green Phlegm.

The Doctor told me, that a Day or two before, there peeled off whole Skins from the Tongue of his Patient, whereupon I asked him, Whether his Tongue was not very much swell'd? To which he answered, It filled the whole Mouth.

I observed moreover in the said Matter, whether I viewed it wet or dry, such a great number of small Fibres, just as if it had been a thin Membrane that I had placed before the Glass.

I sid to the Doctor, how much those Persons were mistaken that affirm that these Skins upon the Tongues proceed from the Vapours or Fumes of the Stomach, in which the Doctor agreed with me; but when I told him that the great thickness of the Tongue was occasioned by the want of the Blood circulating therein, whilst the Heart was continually sending up fresh Blood into the Tongue, by which means it was forc'd thro' the Tunica's of the Vessels, and turn'd to that Matter which was found upon the Tongue, and which we call the Trush; and whereas that Matter which I found in my Illness upon my Tongue was nothing but the Serum of the Blood, the reason of that was, That the Protrusion of the Blood was not so strong

strong in me, as it was in the Young Man, neither were there any Globules to be observed in it; I say when I told the Doctor this, he seemed to differ from me at first, but afterwards he agreed with me entirely in this Opinion; to wit, that the Matter, which was found upon the Tongue, does not proceed from Fumes and Vapours out of the Stomach, but is protruded out of the Tongue; and added moreover, that when he scraped such like Matter from the Tongues of his Patients, in half an Hours time they were covered again with the Matter which we call the Thrush; and surther, that when the Patient being something better had scraped off the Matter upon the Tip of the Tongue somewhat too harshly, he caused his Tongue to bleed, but soon after it had done Bleeding, 'twas again covered with the Thrush.

III. Part of a Letter from Dr. Scipio des-Moulins, to Dr. Hans Sloane, R. S. Secr. concerning a Mineral Water at Canterbury.

Bout twelve Years ago a Mineral Water was accidentally detected in this City. In digging the Ground, they first met with a fat black Mold extending it self three Foot deep, and gradually changing into another fort of Earth, very fat and like Butter. This second Lay was two Foot thick; the Colour of it Yellow, something mixt; it's Odour strong and Mineral; and a piece of it, being for some time exposed to the Sun, smell'd much like burning Sulphur. After this they found a Quicksand of a darker Colour than the first Earth, mix'd with several little Stones, and the Smell still stronger than before. Two